

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /085 W  
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P 101530Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4340

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 2310

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MR.; MON SS, SP, AG

SUBJ: SAHARA WATCH: DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN AND OUT OF NOUAKCHOTT

SUMMARY: NOUAKCHOTT WAS SITE OVER WEEKEND OF ALMOST FRANTIC  
DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY PRINCIPALLY ON WESTERN SAHARA. PRESIDENT OULD  
DADDAH DEPARTS TODAY FOR MEETING IN BECHAR WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE.  
GIRM NOVEMBER 10 DENIED AFP REPORT THAT 40 MAURITANIAN SOLDIERS DE-  
FECTED TO F POLISARIO. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH MET SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8 WITH ALGE-  
RIAN ENVOY, AHMED DRAOUI, MEMBER OF NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY  
COUNCIL AND DIRECTOR OF SURETE. DRAOUI, WHO RETURNED TO  
ALGERIA SUNDAY, BROUGHT MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE.

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2. SPECIAL ENVOY OF MALIAN PRESIDENT TRAORE, COMMANDANT YOUSSEF TRAORE, DELIVERED MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH ON SATURDAY. (SUBJECT OF MESSAGE WAS NOT REVEALED, BUT AT THIS JUNCTURE IT IS SAFE TO SPECULATE THAT IT ADDRESSED EITHER SAHARA OR ANGOLAN PROBLEMS.)

3. MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI MET WITH PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, AND RETURNED SAME DAY TO MOROCCO. ACCORDING TO REPORT IN GOVERNMENT-RUN PAPER, CHAAB, LARAKI BROUGHT MESSAGE ON SAHARA FROM KING HASSAN TO OULD DADDAH.

4. MAURITANIAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE, ABDALLAHI OULD BOYE, DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM OULD DADDAH TO PRESIDENT QADHAFI NOV 9. ALTHOUGH SUBSTANCE OF MESSAGE WAS NOT ANNOUNCED, IT IS REPORTED TO HAVE CONCERNED SAHARA.

5. CHABB ANNOUNCED IN ITS NOVEMBER 10 EDITION THAT OULD DADDAH IS DEPARTING TODAY FOR BECHAR, ALGERIA TO MEET WITH BOUMEDIENE. OULD DADDAH WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MOHAMED ALI CHERIF, SECRETARY GENERAL IN PRESIDENCY, AND TAKE OULD SIDI, DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL AND AIDE DE CAMP.

6. NOVEMBER 10 CHABB RAN BRIEF FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE REPORTING KING HASSAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GREEN MARCHERS HAD BEEN ASKED TO RETURN TO MOROCCO.

7. TODAY'S CHABB IN FRONT-PAGE BOU ALSO CARRIED DENIAL OF NOVEMBER 7 AFP STORY WHICH REPORTED THAT 40 MAURITANIAN SOLDIERS HAD DEFEATED TO F POLISARIO. QUOTING "BEST INFORMED SOURCES", CHAAB SAID BASIS FOR RUMOR WAS RECENT DEPARTURE FROM MAURITANIA TO WESTERN SHARA OF 27 "MERKEZ" ELEMENTS. THESE WERE DESCRIBED AS PERSONS ONCE BELONGING TO AUXILIARY ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT CREATED BY FRENCH ARMY AND WHO HAD CONTINUED SINCE INDEPENDENCE, ESSENTIALLY FOR SOCIAL REASONS, TO BENEFIT BY VARIOUS ALLOWANCES. MERKEZ, WHO WERE RECRUITED ON THE SPOT, SERVED AT ALL TIMES ONLY AS SCOUTS. CHAAB UNDERLINED THAT THESE ELEMENTS IN NO WAY BELONG TO NATIONAL ARMY NOR OTHER SECURITY FORCES AND THAT THEY ARE NOT LINKED TO ANY SECURITY FORCE IN ANY WAY. CHAAB CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT MAURITANIA PLACES NO RESTRICTIONS ON PEOPLE LIVING ON EITHER SIDE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BORDER WHO WISH TO CROSS "ARTIFICIAL" FRONTIER, QUITE TO CONTRARY.

8. COMMENT: NOUAKCHOTT WAS SCENE OF FRENETIC DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY ON SAHARA OVER WEEKEND. ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN RIVALRY SURFACED PUBLICLY FOR FIRST TIME IN FORM OF PUBLIC DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERING FOR MAURITANIA'S FAVOR. ALGERIAN SPECIAL ENVOY PRESUMABLY CAME TO DETERMINE IF MAURITANIANS REALLY MEANT FRIENDSHIP SIGNALS THEY WERE SENDING LAST WEEK AND TO DETERMINE IF

THEY WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO BID BY BOUMEDIENE FOR CHANCE TO PUT HIS CASE. SUBSEQUENTLY-ARRANGED OULD DADDAH-BOUMEDIENE MEETING INDICATES BOTH QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. NEXT DAY MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER HUSTLED DOWN HERE PRESUMABLY TO FOREWARN MOROCCO'S SAHARA POLICY ALLY OF KING'S DECISION TO CALL OFF GREEN MARCH, AND IN PROCESS TOMQFFSET ITS RIVALS'S ATTEMPT TO WOO GIRM AWAY FROM RABAT. THUS PRESENCE OF COMPETING ALGERIAN AND MOROCCAN SPECIAL ENVOYS GAVE SYMBOLIC PUBLIC FORM TO EFFORT MAURITANIA HAS BEEN MAKING OVER RECENT WEEKS TO KEEP ITS OPTIONS OPEN. IT HAS BEEN MANEUVERING VERY CAREFULLY TO GET INTO A POSITION TO MOVE BACK AND FORTH QUICKLY AND EASILY FROM NEGOTIATED ANNEXATION TO ADMINISTERED SELF-DETERMINATION AS SAHARA TACTICAL STIUATION EVOLVED AND ITS ASPIRATIONS AND INTERESTS DICTATED. LAST WEEK GIRM MADE CLEAR ITS PREFERENCE FOR NEGOTIATED ANNEXATION/PARTITION BUT CAREFULLY NOTED ITS READINESS TO ACCEPT AN APPROPRIATELY CIRCUMSCRIBED UN-RUN REFERENDUM. SIMULTANEOUSLY, DESPITE ITS SHARP UNPPPINESS WITH ALGERIAN OPPOSITION MANEUVERING, IT MADE CLEAR PUBLICLY IT STILL VALUED ALGERIA'S FRIENDSHIP. THIS WEEK MAURITANIA FINDS ITSELF IN THE NOVEL POSITION OF BEING SOZHT AFTER BY ITS TWO NORTHERN NEIGHBORS. IN ALL PROBABILITY MAURITANIA WILRICONTINUDTO KEEP ITS WEIGHT EQUALLY BALANCED ON BOTH ITS POLICY FEET. AND TO EXTENT IT DOES, IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE SOUGHT AFTER BY ITS TWO LARGER, MORE POWERFUL, MORE AGGRESSIVE, AND RIVAL NEIGHBOR NEIGHBORS PERHAPS THIS IS WHY GIRM REMAINS SERENELY CONFIDENT THAT ITS REASONABLE AND LEGITIMATE SAHARA ASPIRATIONS WILL ULTIMATELY BE FULFILLED. HANDYSIDE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, SELFDETERMINATION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, MR, SS, SP, AG, (DADDAH, OULD), (DRAOUI, AHMED)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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